

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 IO-14 SSO-00

NSCE-00 OPR-02 A-01 SY-04 OC-06 CCO-00 ACDA-19 NIC-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /185 W
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R 131230Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2522

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE BY POUCH

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: TROUBLE MOUNTS IN BEIRA

REF: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 331 (NOTAL) MEDP

(B) LOURENCO MARQUES 332 (NOTAL)

1. BEIRA HAS BEEN UNDER INCREASING TENSION IN RECENT WEEKS. FRELIMO ATTACKS ON MAIN HIGHWAY NEAR INCHOPE, AND RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITY IN VILA PERY AND INHAMINGA AREAS, GENERAL ECONOMIC DEPRESSION, DECLINE OF TOURISM, PARALYZING OF CITY DUE TO BUS DRIVERS' STRIKE AND OTHER LABOR DISPUTES HAVE BROUGHT SITUATION TO EXPLOSION POINT.

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WM EVENTS TOOK UGLY TURN SUNDAY, MAY 12. DR. SIMIAO AND MAXIMO DIAS OF GUMO LED POLITICAL RALLY FOR AFRICANS IN MUNHAVA SUBURB OF BEIRA AT 1100 HOURS SUNDAY MORNING. AT RALLY BOTH DIAS AND SIMIAO STRESSED DESIRE FOR PEACE, NEED FOR NEGOTIATED CEASE-FIRE AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE EITHER AS: A) SELF-DETERMINATION RETAINING SOME POLITICAL LINES WITH PORTUGAL; OR B) TOTAL INDEPENDENCE, BUT WITH MOZAMBIQUE CONTINUING TO UTILIZE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE AND HISTORICAL LINKS. DR. SIMIAO ALSO EXPRESSED GUMO'S SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS. APPARENTLY, SOME SPECTATORS FELT THEY HAD HEARD ENOUGH, STARTED THROWING STONES AND THREATENING VIOLENCE AGAINST SPEAKERS WHO WERE HUSTLED OFF TO SAFETY AND WENT INTO HIDING IN AFRICAN SECTION OF BEIRA. ACCORDING TO BBC BROADCAST MORNING OF MAY 13, BLACKS RETALIATED BY ATTACKING AND OVERTURNING CARS OWNED BY WHITES ENTERING MUNHAVA THROUGHOUT REMAINDER OF DAY. WHITES PROCEEDED TO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE REQUESTING RADIO NOT BROADCAST SIMIAO SPEECH AND DEMANDING HER EXPULSION FROM BEIRA. GOVERNOR PLEADED FOR CALM LEST SITUATION BECOME EXPLOSIVE. LATER IN AFTERNOON, AFTER ARRIVAL OF JUNTA VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL COSTA GOMES, CROWDS OF WHITES DEMONSTRATED BEFORE HIM. GENERAL GOMES ALSO CALLED FOR CALM AND BEGGED CROWDS NOT TO INCITE RACIAL RIVALRY. BBC REPORTED CROWDS ALSO ATTACKED AND SACKED HOUSE OF DR. MIGUEL MURUPA, EX-FRELIMO DEFECTOR AND EDITOR OF VOZ AFRICAN.

3. ACCORDING TO DR. SIMIAO, WHO TELEPHONED ME, MY FRENCH, GERMAN AND BRITISH COLLEAGUES AS WELL AS SEVERAL FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, FROM HER HIDING PLACE, DEMONSTRATION AGAINST GUMO WAS BY WHITES ORGANIZED AND LED BY NUNES DE CARVALHO, FORMER LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBER, OPPOSITIONIST AND HEAD OF RECENTLY ORGANIZED PRUMO (UNITED PROGRESS OF MOZAMBIQUE), RECENTLY FORMED POLITICAL PARTY CONSISTING LARGELY OF BEIRANESE BUSINESSMEN AND FORMER OPPOSITIONISTS. (NOTE: NUNES DE CARVALHO IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ORGANIZED THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE ARMED FORCES IN BEIRA LAST JANUARY). ACCORDING TO OTHER SOURCES, ATTACKS AND HECKLING OF GUMO WERE BY PRO-FRELIMO AFRICAN ELEMENTS, ALTHOUGH WHITES UNQUESTIONABLY DOMINATED PROCEEDINGS BEFORE GOVERNOR AND GEN. COSTA GOMES. (NOTE: IN VIEW GUMO'S RECENT EFFORTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTACT AND COLLABORATE WITH FRELIMO (SEE REF B) IT WOULD BE TO SIMIAO'S INTEREST TO TAMP DOWN REPORTS OF FRELIMO OPEN OPPOSITION TO HER GROUP.)

4. ONE CURIOUS AFTERMATH OF RIOT, WAS PERSONAL APPEAL FROM JORGE JARDIM SPEAKING FROM LISBON, CARRIED BY LOCAL RADIO NEWS AND NEWSPAPERS, CALLING FOR PEACE AND RACIAL HARMONY, STATING HE WAS IN POSITION TO GUARANTEE THAT

RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF ALL SECTORS OF POPULATION WOULD BE RESPECTED WITHOUT PERSECUTION OR VIOLENCE AND THAT ALL MOZAMBICANS COULD DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR. HE SAID THAT FOR LONG MONTHS RESPONSIBLE AND WORTHY MEN HAD WORKED OUT FORMULAS FOR UNDERSTANDING. HE BEGGED HIS LISTENERS TO AVOID PROVOCATIVE MANIFESTATIONS EVEN WHEN WELL INTENDED AND AGGRESSIVE REACTIONS EVEN WHEN THEY APPEAR TO BE JUSTIFIED. HE CALLED FOR CONFIDENCE IN THE JUNTA OF NATIONAL SALVATION. HE APPEALED FOR PATIENCE UNTIL CONDITIONS FOR FREE SELF-DETERMINATION ARE REVEALED WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS. HE ALSO GAVE HIS GUARANTEE THAT HE WOULD SOON RETURN TO MOZAMBIQUE AFTER VISITING NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO REVEAL TO EVERYONE WHAT HE CAN NOT YET SAY TODAY.

5. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, BEIRA HAS ALWAYS BEEN MORE VOLATILE THAN LOURENCO MARQUES, GATHERING GLOOM OF BAD ECONOMIC SITUATION HAS BEEN EXACERBATED BY INCREASED FRELIMO GUERRILLA ACTIVITY ON BEIRA'S MAIN COMMUNICATION LINES. GUMO'S CALL IN PUBLIC MEETING FOR INDEPENDENCE MAY HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR LONG-SUFFERING WHITE COMMUNITY TO ACCEPT SO THEY REACTED, (IF INDEED IT WAS WHITES RATHER THAN PRO-FRELIMO BLACKS WHO DID THE ATTACKING). APART FROM PERSONAL INCONVENIENCES AND EMOTIONAL REACTIONS WHICH VIOLENCE ALWAYS PRODUCES, DR. SIMIAO ON REFLECTION WILL PROBABLY COME TO REALIZE THAT HER POLITICAL POSITION MAY BE ENHANCED BY THE OCCURRENCE. SHE NOW CAN CLAIM TO HAVE FULL CREDENTIALS AS MOZAMBICAN NATIONALIST WHO HAS ACTUALLY SUFFERED ATTACKS FROM THE WHITE RIGHT-WING. JORGE JARDIM APPEAL IS A STRANGE ONE AND SOUNDS FOR ALL THE WORLD AS IF HE IS SPEAKING AS A FUTURE GOVERNOR GENERAL OR PRO-CONSUL OF SOME SORT. PERHAPS KNOWING THAT JARDIM DOES HAVE SOME INFLUENCE IN BEIRA, JUNTA WAS HAPPY TO AUTHORIZE HIS SERVICES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO APPEAL FOR CALM, BUT HIS HERALDED RETURN TO THE SCENE AFTER TALKS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, IMPLIES THAT HE EXPECTS TO PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE. BEIRA SITUATION CLEARLY REMAINS UNSETTLED AND PERHAPS EVEN DANGEROUS TO PORTUGUESE HOPES FOR RACIAL HARMONY.
VAN OSS

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